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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated April 29, 2009. Claims 1-9 and 39-47 were pending in this application, with unexamined, withdrawn claims 10-38 having been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. The Office Action indicates that claims 41-43 have been allowed. By the present Amendment, claims 1 and 44 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 2 and 45 have been amended by rewriting them in independent form, without narrowing a scope of the claims, claims 3-9, 39 and 40 have been amended to depend from claim 2, and claims 46 and 47 have been amended to depend from claim 45. Entry of the Amendment is requested. Claims 2-9, 39-43 and 45-47 would remain pending upon entry of this Amendment, with claims 2, 41 and 45 being in independent form.

Claims 1, 3-9 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Maki et al. (US 2002/0126193 A1) in view of Kuwabara et al. (JP2004-99280) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,121,170 to Bannai et al. Claims 39, 40, 46 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Maki in view of Kuwabara and Bannai and further in view of Kanome (US 2003/0052955 A1).

The Office Action also indicated that claims 2 and 45 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the present Amendment, claims 2 and 45 have been amended by rewriting them in independent form.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 2 and the claims depending therefrom are allowable over the cited art, for at least the reason that the cited art, as acknowledged in the Office Action, does not disclose or suggest the aspects of a surface

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resistance measurement part configured to detect a surface resistance value of the recording medium, wherein said control part adjusts the amount of the electric charges on the surface of the recording medium in accordance with the surface resistance detected by said surface resistance measurement part.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 45 and the claims depending therefrom are allowable over the cited art, for at least the reason that the cited art, as acknowledged in the Office Action, does not disclose or suggest the aspects that the amount of positive and negative electric charges is adjusted in accordance with a surface resistance detected by a surface resistance measurement part.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, applicant submits that the application is now allowable. Accordingly, applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees, and to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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